

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4247

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PL (CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT)

SUBJECT: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT - MFN AND CREDITS FOR THE USSR

REF: WARSAW 4227

1. SENATOR PERCY'S QUESTION TO OLSZOWSKI ON MFN AND CREDITS FOR THE USSR WAS: "WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD FLOW TO THE US IF WE DID GRANT MFN AND CREDITS TO THE USSR; AND WHAT WOULD THE USSR GAIN"? OLSZOWSKI ANSWERED: "YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS NOT EASY, BUT I THINK IT SUGGESTS A DOWN-TO-EARTH REPLY. GIVING MFN TO THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR - ALSO TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. AS FAR AS INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION IS CONCERNED, IT IS QUITE REALISTIC THESE DAYS TO BELIEVE THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND AMERICAN INDUSTRY BASED IN EUROPE CAN BE EXPANDED. THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT SCOPE. I COULD GIVE YOU SOME EYTMPLES. GRANTING MFN TO THE USSR WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND WOULD AFFECT MANY OTHER QUESTIONS OF A NON-TRADE NATURE -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE SO-CALLED THIRD-BASKET ITEMS OF FREER CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE, WHICH IS A PART OF THE CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PROBLEM (OF TRADE BARRIERS) IS OF KEY SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE."

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2. SENATOR PERCY STATED THE SAME QUESTION SOMEWHAT

DIFFERENTLY TO GIEREK: "I WOULD HOPE THAT, IF SENATORS JAVITS AND RIBICOFF TAKE THE LEAD IN REMOVING THE IRRITANT TO TRADE, YOU WILL HELP THE SOVIET UNION UNDERSTAND THE VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON MORAL ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE, EMIGRATION." GIEREK'S RESPONSE WAS MORE GENERAL THAN SPECIFIC: "WITH REGARD TO YOUR COMMENT ON OUR ROLE -- WE TRY TO MAKE USE OF THOSE WAYS WHICH IN OUR MIND ARE THE MOST REASONABLE TO BUILD BRIDGES LINKING THE TWO PARTS OF THE WORLD."

3. IN INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS AT THE SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, SENATOR SCOTT SAID THAT HE HOPED FOR A LIBERALIZATION OF EMIGRATION WHICH WOULD EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF THE UN CHARTER.

4. ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT IN LENINGRAD, SENATOR PERCY TOLD THE ACTING DCM, WHO HAD GONE TO LENINGRAD TO BRIEF CODEL ON FLIGHT TO WARSAW, THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT JAVITS AND RIBICOFF WOULD TAKE THE LEAD UPON THEIR RETURN IN REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

5. COMMENT: DURING THE WARSAW VISIT, NEITHER SENATOR JAVITS NOR SENATOR RIBICOFF MADE ANY STATEMENT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO WORK FOR REMOVAL OF THE TRADE BARRIERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY SEEMED UNPERTURBED AT SENATOR PERCY'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY MIGHT TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS AREA.
DAVIES

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